GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Requirement of Foodgrains for NFSA
S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria evolved for inclusion and actual identification of beneficiaries and the manner in which beneficiaries will be authenticated under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);
(b) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of foodgrains and storage space for its implementation along with the extent to which increased procurement is likely to contribute to price distortions in the international market;
(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the remedial steps taken in this regard; and
(d) the details of the action plan formulated and the steps taken by the Government and other agencies to ensure proper and effective implementation of NFSA?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): As per the provisions of the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA), identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs). Eligible households comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households. The Act provides that identification of AAY households is to be done in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and that of remaining households, i.e. priority households, in accordance with such guidelines as States/UTs may specify. AAY is an ongoing scheme and the AAY households are already identified in States/UTs. For identification of priority households, complete responsibility for evolving the criteria and their actual identification is with the States/UTs.
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(b) and (c):The annual requirement of foodgrains for implementation of the NFSA is estimated at 614.4 lakh tons. As on 30.09.2015, total storage capacity of 792.48 lakh tons was available with Food Corporation of India and State agencies, which is sufficient for storage of foodgrains in Central Pool stocks.
The average annual procurement of wheat and rice during last five years (2010-11 to 2014-15) was about 630 lakh tons. At the current levels of production and procurement of foodgrains, the requirements under NFSA are likely to be met domestically and no price distortion in international market is foreseen as a result of implementation of the Act.
(d): Main responsibility for implementation of the Act rests with States/UTs. Its implementation is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required. Various meetings/ conferences have also been held with the States/UTs to review status of implementation of the Act. In order to ensure proper implementation of the Act, States/UTs are impressed upon to ensure proper identification of beneficiaries through a transparent and participative process, delivery of foodgrains by designated State agencies upto the door-steps of fair price shops, availability of adequate scientific storage facilities at various levels, end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations and setting up of effective grievance redressal mechanism, among others.
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